IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 8 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Please amend Claims 1 and 7, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A packet switching apparatus accommodating a group of first communication lines of different access methods for performing communication with subscriber terminals and a second communication line for connection to the Internet, comprising:

a basic module disposed in the packet switching apparatus casing; and

an additional module disposed on the outside of the packet switching apparatus casing, and said basic module comprising:

a plurality of packet processors each for performing a predetermined protocol process on communication packets;

a switch for switching packets among said packet processors;

at least one detachable [[a]] first line interface connected between one of said packet processors and a communication line having a specific access method in said first communication lines;

a second line interface connected between one of said packet processors and said second communication line; and

a control processor operatively connected to control the basic module and the additional module ~~each of the above elements~~,

wherein said additional module is operatively connected to ~~between~~ one of said packet processors instead of a first line interface ~~and a~~ so as to accommodate at least one communication line having an access method different from said specific access method in said first communication lines and performs a process peculiar to said access method on a transmission and received signal.

2. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said packet processors has a PPP (Point to Point Protocol) process function and an IP (Internet Protocol) layer processing function for performing communication with an Internet service provider.

3. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication line having said specific access method is an ISDN.

4. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication line connected to said additional module is any of an analog circuit, an ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line), and a CATV line.

5. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said additional module has means for communicating control information with said control processor.

6. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first line interface is detachably connected to said packet processor.

7. (Currently Amended) A packet switching apparatus accommodating first communication lines connected to subscriber terminals and a second communication line connected to the Internet, comprising:

a basic module disposed in the packet switching apparatus casing; and

an additional module disposed on the outside of the packet switching apparatus casing, and said basic module comprising:

a plurality of packet processors each for performing a predetermined protocol process on communication packets;

a switch for switching packets among said packet processors;

at least one detachable [[a]] line interface operatively connected ~~between~~ with one of said packet processors and one of said first communication lines; and

a control processor operatively connected to control the basic module and the additional module ~~each of the above elements~~,

wherein said additional module is operatively connected to ~~between~~ one of said packet processors [[and]] instead of a standard line interface for said second communication line and has an expanded function including a packet processing function peculiar to communication service on said second communication line.

8. (Original) The packet switching apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said additional module has means for encrypting and decrypting the contents of packets communicated on said second communication line.